

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EUR-12 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-15

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R 111108Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0935

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR AG

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN DRUG LAWS

DEPARTMENT PASS: AF/NEA/EUR DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL PROSPECTIVE TRAVELERS TO ALGERIA THE VERY STIFF PRISON TERMS AND FINES CURRENTLY BEING IMPOSED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN OR THROUGH ALGERIA. IN RECENT MONTHS THE ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE APPREHENDED AND TRIED 99 FOREIGNERS (8 AMERICANS) CAUGHT TRYING TO SMUGGLE SOME THREE TONS OF HASHISH FROM MOROCCO THROUGH ALGERIA TO EUROPE. THE U.S. SENTENCES TO DATE HAVE BEEN AS HIGH AS 15 YEARS IN PRISON WITH UP TO DOLS 200,000 FINE. ALGERIAN LAW PRESCRIBES SENTENCES UP TO AND INCLUDING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG OFFENSES, ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS RECEIVED THIS SENTENCE YET.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS THAT IN SPITE OF THE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THESE DRUG ARRESTS IN WESTERN EUROPE, INDIVIDUALS ARE CONTINUING TO TRY TO SMUGGLE HASHISH THROUGH ALGERIA. WE REQUEST, THEREFORE, THAT POSTS PUBLICIZE THE VERY SEVERE PENALTIES SET FORTH IN THE ALGERIAN LAWS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WARN PROSPECTIVE TRAVELERS TO ALGERIA OF SAME.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE POSTS.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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